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## **President Shelly Welcomes ASU Study of Economic Impact of Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Mine**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly applauds an Arizona State University study that states Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Mine will help contribute nearly \$13 billion to the Navajo economy and help support nearly 75,000 jobs from 2020 through 2044, the term of the extended lease.

“I have been saying that NGS plays an important role to the Navajo Nation. The power plant does more than create revenue for the Navajo Nation government, but the plant stimulates the local economy. The study from ASU is welcomed because it factually outlines the overall picture NGS and Kayenta Mine play in the Navajo Nation’s economy,” President Shelly said.

The study was release Wednesday afternoon by the L. William Seidman Research Institute in the W.P. Carney School of Business at ASU.

A negotiating team appointed by President Shelly recently concluded negotiations earlier this year of a NGS lease extension through 2044 with Salt River Project, the managing partner of Navajo Generating Station.

The Navajo Nation government would see a favorable increase in lease payments and taxes, however, the lease extension has to be approved by the Navajo Nation Council before President Shelly could sign the lease extension amendment.

The study states that Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Coal Mine would contribute \$12.94 billion to the Navajo Nation economy through sustained jobs and wages.

The study also indicates that in 2020, the plant and mine would support nearly 3,000 jobs and contribute more than \$500 million to the Navajo Nation’s economy, or Gross Navajo Nation Product. The plant and the mine currently employ nearly 1,000 workers.

“I have been saying we need to protect existing jobs on the Navajo Nation. This study shows that the plant and the mine not only support existing jobs at the plant and mine, but support other jobs in the area,” President Shelly said.

The most recent study is separate from the 2012 study that stated that Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Mine have \$20 billion impact to the northern Arizona economy.

“The 2012 report was concerned with the economic effects for Coconino County, Navajo County and the State of Arizona as a whole. The current study examines the economic effects exclusively for the Navajo Nation,” the study stated.

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